

Application No.: 10/634,625
Amendments dated March 24, 2006
Response

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A dispensing apparatus for dispensing fluids to a patient comprising:

- (a) an outer housing;
- (b) an expandable housing disposed within said outer housing, said expandable housing having a fluid reservoir provided with an inlet for permitting fluid flow into said fluid reservoir and an outlet for permitting fluid flow from said fluid reservoir;
- (c) stored energy means disposed within said outer housing for exerting a force upon said first expandable housing to cause the fluid contained within said fluid reservoir to controllably flow through said outlet, said stored energy means comprising a constant force extension spring carried within said outer housing, said constant force extension spring comprising a coiled roll of pre-stressed material that exerts a substantially constant restraining

Amendments to the Claims continued

force to resist uncoiling, said spring being retractable to cause fluid flow from said fluid reservoir;

(d) fill means carried by said outer housing for filling said reservoir with the fluid to be dispensed; and

(e) dispensing means carried by said outer housing for dispensing fluid to the patient.

Claim 2 (original): The apparatus as defined in claim 1 in which said expandable housing comprises a bellows structure having an accordion-like side wall and, said bellows structure being movable from a substantially collapsed configuration to a substantially expanded configuration by fluid flowing into said fluid reservoir.

Claim 3 (original): The apparatus as defined in claim 1 further including flow control means connected to said outer housing for controlling fluid flow between said reservoir and said dispensing means, said flow control means comprising a flow control member in fluid communication with said reservoir, said flow control member having a plurality of flow control channels.

Claim 4 (original): The apparatus as defined in claim 1 in which said fill means comprises a first fill vial receivable within said outer housing.

Claim 5 (canceled)

Amendments to the Claims continued

Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (currently amended): A dispensing apparatus for dispensing fluids to a patient comprising:

- (a) an outer housing having first, second and third portions;
- (b) an expandable housing disposed within said outer housing, said expandable housing having a fluid reservoir provided with an inlet for permitting fluid flow into said fluid reservoir and an outlet for permitting fluid flow from said fluid reservoir, said expandable housing comprising a bellows structure having an accordion-like side wall movable from a substantially collapsed configuration to a substantially expanded configuration by fluid flowing into said fluid reservoir;
- (c) stored energy means disposed within said second portion of said outer housing for exerting a force upon said inner expandable housing to cause the fluid contained within said fluid reservoir to controllably flow through said outlet, said stored energy means comprising a constant force extension spring carried within said outer housing ~~said~~, said constant force extension spring comprising a coiled roll of pre-stressed metal that exerts a substantially constant restraining force to resist uncoiling and will inherently tend to uniformly retract toward a coiled roll and in so doing will exert a

Amendments to the Claims continued

substantially constant force, said constant force extension spring being ~~expandable~~ uncoiled by fluid flowing into said fluid reservoir and being retractable to cause fluid flow from said fluid reservoir;

(d) fill means carried by said outer housing for filling said reservoir with the fluid to be dispensed, said fill means comprising a vial carried within said third portion of said outer housing;

(e) dispensing means carried by said outer housing for dispensing fluid to the patient; and

(f) flow control means connected to said outer housing for controlling fluid flow between said reservoir and said dispensing means.

Claim 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (original): The dispensing apparatus as defined in claim 7, further including a second fill vial carried within said third portion of said outer housing and in which said third portion of said outer housing includes:

- (a) a fluid passageway;
- (b) a first chamber for telescopically receiving said first fill vial;
- (c) an elongated support mounted within said first chamber, said elongated support having an elongated hollow needle, said hollow needle defining a flow passageway in communication with said fluid passageway;

Amendments to the Claims continued

(d) a second chamber for telescopically receiving said second fill vial;
and

(e) an elongated support mounted within said second chamber, said elongated support having an elongated hollow needle, said hollow needle defining a flow passageway in communication with said fluid passageway.

Claim 10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (currently amended): The apparatus as defined in claim ~~11~~ 31 in which said flow control assembly further comprises distribution means formed in said flow control member for distributing fluid from said fluid reservoir to each of said plurality of elongated flow control channels.

Claim 13 (original): The apparatus as defined in claim 12, in which said flow control member is provided with an inlet passageway in communication with said fluid reservoir and in which said flow control assembly further includes filter means carried by said flow control member for filtering fluid flowing toward said distribution means.

Claim 14 (original): The apparatus as defined in claim 13 in which said distribution means comprises a plurality of radially extending flow passageways formed in said flow control member.

Amendments to the Claims continued

Claim 15 (original): The apparatus as defined in claim 14 in which said first portion of said outer housing is provided with a fluid flow passageway and in which said selector means comprises a selector knob connected to said flow control member, said selector knob having finger gripping means for imparting rotation to said selector knob to align said outlet of a selected one of said elongated flow control channels with said fluid flow passageway in said first portion of said outer housing.

Claim 16 (original): The apparatus as defined in claim 15 further including volume indicator means carried by said outer housing for indicating the volume of fluid remaining in said fluid reservoir.

Claim 17 (original): The apparatus as defined in claim 15 further including disabling means carried by said outer housing for preventing fluid flow toward said dispensing means.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A dispensing apparatus for dispensing fluids to a patient comprising:

- (a) an outer housing having first and second portions, said second portion having a cavity;
- (b) an expandable housing disposed within said second portion of said outer housing, said expandable housing having a fluid reservoir provided

Amendments to the Claims continued

with an inlet for permitting fluid flow into said fluid reservoir and an outlet for permitting fluid flow from said fluid reservoir, said expandable housing comprising a bellows structure having an accordion-like side wall movable from a substantially collapsed configuration to a substantially expanded configuration by fluid flowing into said fluid reservoir;

(c) stored energy means disposed within said second portion of said outer housing for exerting a force upon said inner expandable housing to cause the fluid contained within said fluid reservoir to controllably flow through said outlet, said stored energy means comprising ~~an expandable, contractible constant force spring~~ a coiled roll of pre-stressed material carried within said outer housing that will uncoil and will inherently tend to uniformly recoil and in so doing will exert a substantially constant force;

(d) fill means carried by said first portion of said outer housing for filling said reservoir with the fluid to be dispensed, said fill means comprising a pierceable septum disposed within said cavity in said housing;

(e) dispensing means carried by said outer housing for dispensing fluid to the patient; and

(f) flow control means connected to said outer housing for controlling fluid flow between said reservoir and said dispensing means.

Amendments to the Claims continued

Claim 19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (original): The apparatus as defined in claim 18 in which said flow control channel comprises a micro channel.

Claim 22 (original): The apparatus as defined in claim 18 in which said flow control channel comprises a capillary.

Claim 23 (original): The apparatus as defined in claim 18 in which said flow control channel is coated.

Claim 24 (canceled)

Claim 25 (canceled)

Claim 26 (canceled)

Claim 27 (canceled)

Claim 28 (canceled)

Claim 29 (new): A dispensing apparatus for dispensing fluids to a patient comprising:

- (a) an outer housing having first, second and third portions;
- (b) an expandable housing disposed within said outer housing, said expandable housing having a fluid reservoir provided with an inlet for permitting fluid flow into said fluid reservoir and an outlet for permitting

Amendments to the Claims continued

fluid flow from said fluid reservoir, said expandable housing comprising a bellows structure having an accordion-like side wall movable from a substantially collapsed configuration to a substantially expanded configuration by fluid flowing into said fluid reservoir;

(c) stored energy means disposed within said second portion of said outer housing for exerting a force upon said inner expandable housing to cause the fluid contained within said fluid reservoir to controllably flow through said outlet, said stored energy means comprising a constant force extension spring carried within said outer housing, said constant force extension spring being expandable by fluid flowing into said fluid reservoir and being retractable to cause fluid flow from said fluid reservoir;

(d) fill means carried by said outer housing for filling said reservoir with the fluid to be dispensed, said fill means comprising a vial carried within said third portion of said outer housing, said third portion of said outer housing including:

- (i) a fluid passageway;
- (ii) a first chamber for telescopically receiving said vial; and
- (iii) an elongated support mounted within said first chamber, said elongated support having an elongated hollow needle, said hollow

Amendments to the Claims continued

needle defining a flow passageway in communication with said fluid passageway;

(e) dispensing means carried by said outer housing for dispensing fluid to the patient; and

(f) flow control means connected to said outer housing for controlling fluid flow between said reservoir and said dispensing means.

Claim 30 (new): A dispensing apparatus for dispensing fluids to a patient comprising:

(a) an outer housing having first, second and third portions;

(b) an expandable housing disposed within said outer housing, said expandable housing having a fluid reservoir provided with an inlet for permitting fluid flow into said fluid reservoir and an outlet for permitting fluid flow from said fluid reservoir, said expandable housing comprising a bellows structure having an accordion-like side wall movable from a substantially collapsed configuration to a substantially expanded configuration by fluid flowing into said fluid reservoir;

(c) stored energy means disposed within said second portion of said outer housing for exerting a force upon said inner expandable housing to cause the fluid contained within said fluid reservoir to controllably flow through said

Amendments to the Claims continued

outlet, said stored energy means comprising a constant force extension spring carried within said outer housing, said constant force extension spring being expandable by fluid flowing into said fluid reservoir and being retractable to cause fluid flow from said fluid reservoir;

(d) fill means carried by said outer housing for filling said reservoir with the fluid to be dispensed, said fill means comprising first and second vials carried within said third portion of said outer housing, said third portion of said outer housing including:

- (i) a fluid passageway;
- (ii) a first chamber for telescopically receiving said first fill vial;
- (iii) an elongated support mounted within said first chamber, said elongated support having an elongated hollow needle, said hollow needle defining a flow passageway in communication with said fluid passageway;
- (iv) a second chamber for telescopically receiving said second fill vial; and
- (v) an elongated support mounted within said second chamber, said elongated support having an elongated hollow needle, said hollow

Amendments to the Claims continued

needle defining a flow passageway in communication with said fluid passageway;

(e) dispensing means carried by said outer housing for dispensing fluid to the patient; and

(f) flow control means connected to said outer housing for controlling fluid flow between said reservoir and said dispensing means.

Claim 31 (new): A dispensing apparatus for dispensing fluids to a patient comprising:

(a) an outer housing having first, second and third portions;

(b) an expandable housing disposed within said outer housing, said expandable housing having a fluid reservoir provided with an inlet for permitting fluid flow into said fluid reservoir and an outlet for permitting fluid flow from said fluid reservoir, said expandable housing comprising a bellows structure having an accordion-like side wall movable from a substantially collapsed configuration to a substantially expanded configuration by fluid flowing into said fluid reservoir;

(c) stored energy means disposed within said second portion of said outer housing for exerting a force upon said inner expandable housing to cause the fluid contained within said fluid reservoir to controllably flow through said

Amendments to the Claims continued

outlet, said stored energy means comprising a constant force extension spring carried within said outer housing, said constant force extension spring being expandable by fluid flowing into said fluid reservoir and being retractable to cause fluid flow from said fluid reservoir;

(d) fill means carried by said outer housing for filling said reservoir with the fluid to be dispensed, said fill means comprising a vial carried within said third portion of said outer housing;

(e) dispensing means carried by said outer housing for dispensing fluid to the patient; and

(f) flow control means connected to said outer housing for controlling fluid flow between said reservoir and said dispensing means, said flow control means comprising a flow control assembly including:

(i) an outer casing disposed within said first portion of said outer housing, said outer casing having a plurality of circumferentially spaced-apart fluid outlets in communication with said fluid reservoir;

(ii) a flow control member mounted within said outer casing, said flow control member having a plurality of elongated flow control channels, each of said plurality of elongated flow control channels having an inlet and an outlet; and

Amendments to the Claims continued

(iii) selector means rotatably connected to said second portion of said outer housing for rotating said flow control member.